Drummond, andrew Thomas

May 1920 (019)

May 25th, 1920

A. T. Drummond, Esq., LL.D.,
Grimsby East, Ont.

Dear Dr. Drummond:

I have heard that there is some difficulty in regard to the admission of colored students who desire to study medicine into some of the Canadian Hospitals and I regret that such is the case. The matter was brought up at the meeting of the Universities of the Dominion last week, but it was felt that no action could be taken inasmuch as the Hospitals are independent as regards the reception of patients, and if the patients object to treatment by black students serious difficulties might emerge between the Hospitals and the Universities. As far as I know the matter has not been discussed by our medical council. There have been only a few black students applying hitherto.

I quite recognise the difference between the colored and the black, and I should suppose that it would be in the case of the very dark students that difficulty would arise. Personally the difficulty does not appeal to me, as I myself was at a school in the West Indies where there were colored boys. However, the racial question is so delicate and so full of trouble that I do not like to raise the general issue. I think we must try to deal with individual cases as they arise. Undoubtedly when we have closer relations with the West Indies this will be one of the matters which will have to be handled with the great deal of discretion. Even in England there has been trouble, and some years ago it was found necessary to appoint a Director of Indian Students who should have oversight of them and serve their interests as far as possible.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.